

# GOVERNOR HODGES' FIRST MESSAGE

Kansas Executive Sends Document to State Legislature.

## MANY REFORMS ARE ADVOCATED

Election of Senators and Federal Judges by Direct Vote Favored—Four Amendments to the State Constitution Recommended.

Topeka.—Following is the full text of the first message of Gov. Geo. H. Hodges, as received and read in both houses of the state legislature: Gentlemen of the Legislature:

Under and by virtue of the constitution of the state of Kansas it is the duty of the governor to communicate to you such information and to recommend to you such legislation as he may deem proper and expedient touching the state affairs.

I therefore call your attention to the fact that the congress of the United States has submitted to the several states an amendment to the federal constitution providing for the election of United States senators by direct vote of the people. I recommend that you promptly ratify the same and authorize the certification of your ratification to the Secretary of State of these United States.

In conformity with a deep-seated conviction of the Democratic party, I would urge that this legislature pass a concurrent resolution instructing our senators and requesting our members of the lower branch of congress to submit a resolution to the congress of the United States of America, praying for an amendment to our federal constitution, providing for an election of federal judges by a direct vote of the people and for a term period not exceeding six years.

I call to your attention the fact that almost every member of this legislature was elected upon a platform pledge to submit to the people of Kansas, for their adoption or rejection, amendments to our constitution providing for the initiative and referendum in matters of legislation and for the recall of unfaithful public officials. These and all other platform pledges on which any member of this legislature was elected are solemn contracts with the people and should be as sacredly performed as any contract, the performance of which is demanded by law and business honor. I recommend that the amendments be framed in clear and explicit language and in terms which will make them effectively conform to the will of the people.

I also recommend that you submit to the people of this state an amendment to the constitution providing for quadrennial election of state and county officers. Our elections are a matter of great expense, not only to the public, but to candidates, and in my opinion the public interest will be served by relief from frequent political agitation. Whether disqualification to hold office two successive terms should be added, I leave to your wisdom.

I believe in state aid in building roads and bridges, and recommend to section 8 of article 11 of the constitution be submitted to the people, which shall read as follows:

"The state shall never be a party in carrying on any work of internal improvement, except highways and bridges."

In this connection I call your attention to the fact that three constitutional amendments can be submitted at a general election. I have recommended four. The initiative and referendum and the recall amendments are imperatively demanded by the people and pledged by you. What the other amendment submitted shall be I leave to your wisdom without the expression of choice by me.

I call the especial attention of the Democratic members of this legislature to the fact that the election of United States senators by direct vote of the people is a fundamental doctrine of our party. No matter whether you signed statement Number One or not, your personal preference must stand in the way of your party obligations to cast your vote for the candidate who received a plurality of the votes in the state for United States senator at the recent general election.

I therefore urge every Democratic member of this legislature to vote for William H. Thompson for United States senator.

The complications growing out of the recent election point to the necessity for change in our election laws. While I adhere to my faith in the system of nominations by primary elections, I feel that our present primary law is unsatisfactory and inadequate. It is cumbersome and expensive. Members of one party, or of no party, may and have taken part in the nomination of the candidates of a party with which they have never affiliated. This is wrong, and should be remedied by some sort of registration in which party affiliation is declared a reasonable time in advance of the primary.

I also recommend the adoption of the "Massachusetts form of ballot," for which I contended at the last two sessions of the Kansas legislature. This seems an opportune time to make the change, inasmuch as at least 250,000 women, most of whom have never before cast a ballot, will vote at the next general election. This will great-

ly increase the vote in every precinct, and I recommend that you make provision by law to facilitate the counting of the vote, either by means of a double election board or otherwise.

It has for years been a matter of complaint in this state that mortgages held by non-residents on property in this state, escaped taxation. To remedy this, the legislatures of 1909 and 1911 passed recording mortgage tax laws, which were vetoed by my distinguished predecessor. I call your attention to the fact that every Republican, Progressive and Democrat in this legislature was elected on platform pledges the enactment of such a law. I therefore recommend that you pass such a law at the earliest moment consistent with orderly procedure.

I recommend the unconditional repeal of the present inheritance tax law.

Four years ago the legislature passed an enactment that provided for the optional building of rock roads and a self-assessment by the petitioners for the payment of the same. There is a limited area where there is need of macadamized roads. This is chiefly in the eastern part of the state, where truck gardeners, dairymen and small-farm farmers market their products daily. In such localities a number of roads have been built and the wisdom of the enactment has been made apparent. In every instance the land abutting upon the improved roadway has increased in value from three to five times the cost per acre of such road work, thus further justifying the enactment. I call your attention to the report made by the state highway engineer, that about \$5,000,000 is spent annually for road work in our state and only a trace of such road work is permanent. Our state needs permanent dirt roads, and an advanced step has been taken the past two years through the influence of the Good Roads association and the Good Roads Magazine. The matter of the development of our public highways is so vital to our state that I can not too highly recommend this important subject for your further consideration. I am more than pleased that the state at large is awake to the necessity of the erection of rock or concrete bridges, and I congratulate the state that so many permanent bridges of that construction have been erected during the past two years.

I call your attention to the fact that a decision of the supreme court has made our grain-inspection laws ineffective. That our farmers and grain men may be given protection in the grading of their grain, and in the matter of weights, I recommend that an effective grain-inspection law be passed.

All parties, in their platforms, have promised the enactment of certain enumerated laws for the protection of labor and laboring men. I urge you to make good these promises by appropriate legislation. The safeguarding of the lives and health of the men who work in mine, factory or other hazardous employment, the more rigid enforcement of the child-labor law, and an enlargement of the power of the Bureau of Labor and Industry are measures to which I invite your special attention.

I recommend to your attention the platform declarations of Democratic and Republican parties on the subject of the state publication of school textbooks, and I advise that you make careful inquiry as to the expense of such undertaking, and also as to whether the state has power to engage in it without an amendment to our fundamental law. If in your wisdom such an enactment would be constitutional, then I recommend that this legislature make suitable appropriations for the establishment of a state plant to carry on this work in order that the state may be prepared to furnish school textbooks when our contract for common-school textbooks expires four years hence. I strongly favor the state publication of school textbooks and their distribution by the state at actual cost.

In the matter of contingent funds, I recommend that the governor's contingent fund be reduced from \$10,000 per annum to \$5,000, and that all other official contingent funds be scrutinized by you and reduced to what is reasonably necessary. I recommend, however, that the attorney-general be given a contingent fund of \$100,000 per annum as heretofore.

I shall hold sheriffs, county attorneys and mayors of cities responsible for the strict enforcement of the prohibitory law in their respective jurisdictions, and I will co-operate with the attorney-general in seeing that they do their duty. I regard money spent in the enforcement of the prohibitory law as a good investment, and I will not be a party to any false economy which might tend to hamper the chief law officer of the state in his efforts to enforce it.

There is a general feeling that our statutes are cumbered with many useless laws and that they contain many conflicting provisions. I therefore recommend that you provide for a commission to prepare a revision and codification of our laws and present it for the consideration of the legislature at its next regular session.

I would urge that all laws by you be drafted in clear, simple language, so definite that they can be readily understood. It is a travesty on justice that laws are drafted in such an ambiguous manner that they require interpretation by expert lawyers to determine their meaning.

I call your attention to the fact that the beds of the Kansas and Arkansas rivers and one-half of the bed of the Missouri river belongs to the state, and I recommend that the present

way law be amended over these beds and the islands therein, with the right of appeal as in other cases, and that the Executive Council be given control of the sand, gravel and other products in the beds of these rivers.

There has been some agitation concerning the enactment of a "Jim Crow" law in this state. I can see no reason for the enactment of such a law, and would regret that a bill of that character should even be introduced.

The depositors, bank guaranty law now irrevocably a part of our banking system, has given entire satisfaction and created a public confidence in the security of our state banks which it will be the especial care of this administration to foster. Any act which will strengthen this feature of our banking laws will be cheerfully approved by me as governor.

From personal knowledge I feel warranted in saying that the National Guard of this state is not excelled in efficiency for field service by the guard of any other state. The regiments are composed of a high-grade body of young men, imbued with zeal and patriotism and efficiently officered. The young men of this organization are contributing not only of their time but of their individual means to maintain the present high standard of the organization. They should be the pride of the state and are worthy of your legislative consideration.

I call your attention to the appropriation made for the tuberculosis sanatorium by the last legislature. I commend this as an advanced step on the part of the state in looking to the future health of our citizens. It will be a pleasant duty I am sure for the legislature to appropriate sufficient funds to meet the requirements of this newly founded and what I feel will become a highly commended additional health department of our state.

The people of Kansas are looking to this legislature for relief from the burdens of taxation. I have already recommended the recording mortgage tax and the reducing of election expenses by means of quadrennial elections. I now recommend that the office of state accountant be abolished and the work of that office imposed upon the auditor of state, and that he be given an additional assistant for that purpose if necessary. In this manner the state will get just as effective service at a greatly reduced cost.

I also recommend that the office of live-stock sanitary commissioner be combined with and made a part of the veterinary department of the State Agricultural College, and that the state veterinary be given such assistance as may be necessary. I believe the work can thus be accomplished with greater efficiency and at a greatly reduced cost to the state.

To the same end I recommend that the present Bureau of Labor and Industry, Bureau of Mining Industries and the Free Employment Bureau be abolished and a new Bureau of Labor and Industry created, which shall combine these three activities, with enlarged powers, under a commissioner of labor and industry to be appointed by the governor, and with the consent of the senate, until the next general election, at which time and at every general election thereafter said commissioner shall be elected by the people. This will not only promote efficiency and reduce expenses, but it will elevate the department of labor to the high rank of other elective state offices, and give all the laboring men of the state a voice in the choice of the head of this department.

I recommend that you scrutinize the necessity for inspectors in the various departments and allow only such number as are necessary for the efficient carrying on of the work of each.

I believe that a classification of the various state institutions and the placing of them under the management of three boards will result in a great saving to the taxpayers, not only in the cost of administration but in the cost of maintenance, and I am sure their efficiency will be increased. I therefore recommend that all the state educational institutions, including the School for the Deaf and the School for the Blind, be placed under the management of a board of regents consisting of three members, who shall be paid a reasonable salary and devote all their time to the interests of the state.

In addition to looking after these schools this board might well be made a board of efficiency and economy, to investigate conditions at state institutions and report to the Executive and the legislature where duplications may be avoided, efficiency increased and expense minimized.

I also recommend that the State Soldiers' Home at Dodge City, the Mother Brickerydyke Home and all other benevolent institutions, except the School for the Deaf and the School for the Blind, be placed under the management of the Board of Control.

I also recommend that all the state penal and reformatory institutions, including the Industrial School for Boys and the Industrial School for Girls, be placed under the management and control of a penal board of three members, who shall receive a salary of \$1,000 each per annum and all actual and necessary expenses.

Since the last session of the legislature fire has destroyed some of the buildings at the State Home for the Feeble-minded at Winfield, and the Industrial Reformatory at Hutchinson. I recommend that suitable appropriations be made to replace these buildings with their equipments. I would also recommend a suitable appropriation for buildings and equipment at the new State Insane Hospital at Larned.

I call your attention to the appro-

and educational institutions. The educational institutions alone are asking \$2,324,574 more than was allowed them by the last legislature. I am constrained to recommend to you, that while the efficiency of all these institutions should be kept in mind, and the Kansas standard maintained, you should exercise the utmost care and judgment in determining their needs. No good citizen of this commonwealth wants to impair the usefulness of our public institutions, whether benevolent or educational; but after scanning and carefully considering their demands, I am quite clear that the appropriation of such vast sums is altogether out of the question. I believe that you will find on investigation that there are many duplications of work in our state educational institutions, that some departments are of little or no value, and that some cost more than they are worth to the state. In another part of this message I have recommended the consolidation of the different educational boards. With such a board I believe these objectionable features will be eliminated. With the information now at hand, I do not recommend any appropriations for new buildings at our educational institutions. In the matter of maintenance funds, I recommend that these institutions be treated fairly, but not with prodigality. The people demand economy, and I know of no better service these institutions can render the state than by setting an example of reasonable economy in the administration of their own affairs. I ask you to carefully investigate the needs of these institutions and deal justly by both the schools and the taxpayers.

High-school visitation is costing this state, I am informed, well over \$20,000 a year in salaries, traveling expenses, clerk hire and office expenses. In the opinion of many competent to judge this system of high-school visitation is useless. If this is true the system should be abolished.

I also call your attention to the oft expressed feeling that our method of assessment for taxation is too cumbersome and too expensive, and I urge you to consider carefully the changes that might be made in the interest of economy and efficiency.

I recommend that no state officer, elective or appointive, be paid for time spent in other than the performance of his official duties, with the exception of the allowance of such vacations, not often than once each year, as the legislature may decide upon.

I am sincerely gratified to report to you that our utilities law is a great success and that it needs only slight amendment, if any. In the hands of Broad-gauged men in will continue to be an instrument of the highest value for the development and upbuilding of the state. Under its provisions both people and public service corporations are adequately protected and antagonisms eradicated.

I call the attention of the members of this legislature to the pledges made in the various party platforms to which I have not specifically referred and reiterate what I have said about the obligations of legislators to observe the terms of their contract with the people. I believe that this legislature will conscientiously endeavor to keep faith with the electorate, and that when this session is over and you return to your homes your constituency will feel satisfied with the work you have accomplished.

Respectfully submitted,  
GEO. H. HODGES,  
Governor.

Fred Robertson, president of the Rawlins County Fair association and former state senator from Rawlins county, was elected president of the Kansas Association of County and District Fair Managers, at the conclusion of the third annual meeting of the association, held here. M. F. Garrity, of the Norton County Fair association, was re-elected vice-president, and H. L. Cook, secretary of the Topeka State fair, was re-elected secretary-treasurer of the Association of Fair Managers.

It was Del Travis who was nosed out of a job as state fish and game warden when Gov. Stubbs appointed Prof. L. A. Dyche to that place. And now it is rumored there is a chance that George H. Hodges will name Travis to succeed Dyche as fish and game warden.

Mr. F. R. Willard, of Concordia, a retired farmer, who has been totally blind for years, has interested a great many of the members of the legislature in a bill which he desires passed making an endowment for a school for crippled children in connection with the school for the blind at Olathe.

Through its work on Kansas insect problems, begun in 1872, the state university has returned in economic value to the state an amount often estimated as high as the entire cost of the institution and its foundation.

The office of state grain inspector, now held by D. L. Gordon, a Republican, is said to have been tendered to A. H. Gillis, former county assessor of Wyandotte county. Mr. Gillis has not accepted the place.

The parents of the students in the University of Kansas are engaged in 207 occupations, the largest number in any one occupation being farmers.

More than four thousand students have graduated from the University of Kansas.

Women are this sensible: Skirts one sees on the streets are rarely as tight as those outlined in the fashion maga-

## LITTLE NUMBER SEVEN FLOWER OF ROMANCE

By T. A. TEFFT.

By MARY L. BRAY

No. 7 was noticeably disturbed. She sat on the bench reserved for the cash girls and drummed her feet or pulled viciously at her pigtail of sandy hair. Indeed, so low was her frame of mind that she failed to rebuke one of the smaller girls who asked for the loan of her chewing gum for a few minutes, but took it from her mouth and handed it over quite absent minded-ly.

Miss Joy was unhappy, and therefore No. 7 suffered.

Miss Joy, you must know, was the head young lady at the ribbon counter, and, according to No. 7's views, was the personification of all things beautiful, though this isn't the way No. 7 expressed it. Miss Joy called "Cash!" in the most musical of voices, never scolded if you were a little slow in bringing the change, wore the noblest shirt waists and the largest pompadour in the store, and was adored by No. 7.

Somewhere else liked Miss Joy, too, and this was Mr. Gary, the floorwalker. No. 7 knew that he walked down Miss Joy's aisle twice as often as he did down the others, and seemed to display the greatest alacrity in showing shoppers to the ribbon counter.

He sometimes took Miss Joy to the theater, and one blissful night they had allowed No. 7 to go with them.

Oh, it was splendid! There were two villains in the play, and the hero killed both of them, which, however, didn't prevent them from passing in front of the curtain with the rest of



Thought of Some Way to Heal This All-Too-Evident Breach.

the company in response to a "call"—but they were very properly hissed, so that was all right. Then after the play there was ice cream, as much as she could eat, so altogether it was a glorious evening for No. 7.

But this morning things were in a bad state. Miss Joy's eyes were red as if she had been crying—she said she had a bad cold—and as for Mr. Gary—well, anybody could see that he was miserable. He scolded all the cash girls, including No. 7, who stuck her tongue out at him, and so deep was his misery that he wore a black cravat—his taste usually ran to bright reds and greens. With her two best friends so unhappy, how could No. 7 be otherwise? So as she sat on the bench she thought of some way to heal this all-too-evident breach.

Her gloomy reflections were interrupted by the shrill cry of "Cash here!" and she arose with much reluctance to answer the call, which came from the glove counter, where a sweet-faced young lady was waiting for her parcel and change.

She was all in black, with a bunch of violets pinned on her fur collar; and she must have seen the wistful look in No. 7's eyes, for she said smilingly: "wouldn't you like them?" and without waiting for a reply pressed the flowers into the grimy hand of the little cash girl.

"Oh, thank you, ma'am!" gasped No. 7, her face radiant with pleasure and she walked back to her place on the bench like a home-coming conqueror laden with the spoils of victory.

She buried her nose in the fragrant purple mass with a long sigh of satisfaction, then—an idea popped suddenly into her head, and she walked over to the ribbon counter, where Miss Joy stood listless and said:

"Miss Joy, here's something for you," she said, soberly extending the flowers.

"For me? Oh, thank you, Nell," answered Miss Joy. "How nice of you to give them to me."

"I didn't," stammered No. 7—she was telling her first lie—"they are from Mr. Gary. He says he's awfully sorry he hurt yer feelin's."

Miss Joy's smile was like long-delayed sunshine, and just then, as luck would have it, Mr. Gary walked by.

"Mr. Gary," she called softly. He came up to her with eager haste.

"Harry," she added, softer still, "I know I've been hateful; forgive me—"

And then No. 7 fled, for she knew her work was ended.

Easily Explained.

"Has the price of sirloin steak advanced since yesterday?"

"No, ma'am."

"Dear me! How do you account for it?"

"This happens to be the day for the advancement of porterhouse."

The twins were just past twenty, lonely, as just past twenty should not be. Day after day from their windows on the top floor of a small apartment building, they saw young people passing by, on their way to play golf or tennis in the park. In the evening they watched many a carriage drew up to neighboring doors and go clattering away with a fair and frivolous burden.

The aunt and uncle who had reared them from infancy had come in middle life to the great western city, where they neither had nor made effort to form friendly ties. The girls had been torn from school friendships at an age when these could not be supplanted. The one or two neighbors in the building who had been kind enough to call were not interesting socially.

They knew better than to make themselves unhappy by envious complaining to unsympathetic ears; but as the uneventful days dragged by, over and over they sighed to each other: "I do wish we knew somebody."

The tenant across the hall let two furnished rooms, whose large windows opened upon the air-cour. Della and Bella had for their personal use the two opposite communicating rooms in their apartment, opening upon the same court, diamond-shaped aperture, not more than ten feet across its widest dimensions.

One evening as Della leaned out for a farewell glimpse of the stars, preparatory to drawing the curtains for the night, she almost touched a head projecting from the opposite window, and started back violently. It was a man!

"I beg your pardon!" a deep voice exclaimed, as the head was instantly withdrawn.

Bella, who had half heard the words, in hurried curiosity looked out of her window, and at the same moment a fourth person appeared opposite her, again a man. It was her turn to disappear in confusion, as a second masculine voice craved pardon.

It was clear that there were new occupants across the way, equally clear that they were college boys. The twins exchanged these observations with excited embarrassment. Meanwhile, the two young men were speculating animatedly upon the pleasing possibilities of their discovery.

Matters progressed rapidly, and naturally, and in the due course of time there was to be a dance given by one of the college societies; a dance at which each member was expected to bring his particular best girl. Delaney O'Gorman and Ned Clark, the aforesaid college boys, were both resolved to escort the twins, or not to go at all. Every art of persuasion they brought into play, and after days of timid refusal, Bella and Della finally gave reckless consent.

Bella's room had a door opening into the outer hall. The girls planned to retire ostensibly as early as usual on the fateful night, dress for the dance, and at 9:30, when their aunt and uncle would be sleeping, steal from the apartment. Morning would find them peaceful and unsuspected in their beds. At the appointed hour the twins, their hearts beating like a pair of trip-hammers, made successful escape.

Perhaps in the triumphant moment the carriage door was slammed with unusual violence. At any rate, Aunt Louisa stirred in her sleep. With mechanical vigilance she called: "Della! Bella!" There was no answer. What possessed her to remain awake she never knew. After an interval of restlessness she arose for a drink of water, stopped on the way to glance into Della's room, saw the bed empty, rushed into Bella's room, and collapsed upon the second unoccupied bed.

A hundred terrifying thoughts seized her. A hundred self-accusations and reproaches for undue sternness she poured out upon her astonished husband. After the first outburst of anger and indignation against her nieces, she could only repeat over and over: "They have eloped! We drove them to it! Why didn't we realize?"

Hours later, when the aunt and uncle were trying to formulate a course of action, they were startled by soft rustling sounds in the hall. Aunt Louisa clutched her husband's arm. Then she sped to the door and flung it open before two frightened girls.

"Where've you been?" she cried. "Where are those two young men? Oh, Bella! Della!"

The girls flung themselves beseechingly upon their aunt, and kissed away the tears.

"Don't be angry with us, Aunt Louisa! We wanted to have some fun! We've been to a dance! We were afraid to ask you, Aunt Louisa! Forgive us—we've had such a beautiful time!"

"Are you speaking the entire truth?" their uncle demanded.

With shining eyes the twins gazed upon each other. "Oh," they repeated, "we've had such a beautiful time!"

A significant look passed between their guardians.

It was with secret relief that was almost overwhelming, albeit with reluctance, that their Aunt Louisa said: "I have no objection—a clandestine meeting is very wrong—you'd better ask your admirers to call."